

**To:** Newton City Council

**CC:** Setti Warren, Mayor  
Dori Zaleznik, Chief Administrative Officer  
Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development Department  
James Freas, Deputy Director of Planning & Development  
Lily Canan Reynolds, Planning Department Community Engagement Manager

**From:** Marian Leah Knapp, Chair, Newton Council on Aging

**Re:** Accessory Apartment Statement

**Date:** January 26, 2017

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The Newton Council on Aging supports the adoption of a new Accessory Apartment ordinance. At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 24, 2017, the Council adopted the statement below as our official position on this issue:

The Newton Council on Aging is committed to ensuring that Newton is a safe and secure community for all citizens of all ages. As advocates for seniors, we join the Mayor in support of the adoption of the Accessory Apartment proposal that is currently under discussion by the Newton City Council. Enabling Newton homeowners to create an Accessory Apartment in their homes, subject to the terms and conditions stated in the proposal, can create new housing opportunities for Newton homeowners, while still protecting their most valuable asset: their homes. We particularly support this proposal for the possibilities it offers to reduce isolation, enable multigenerational families to co-habitate in the same house, increase safety by ensuring that accessory apartments meet fire and construction safety codes and, in some cases, provide additional income so that seniors can stay in their Newton homes.